

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase I research conducted for the Eden Square Connector improvements project has revealed the presence of a district of potentially-significant standing historic structures, but failed to verify the anticipated potential for the presence of historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. The research conducted focused on the review of documentary evidence such as historic reports, maps, governmental files, documents, and deeds, and on historic contexts within which any identified cultural resources would be evaluated, as well as on fieldwork consisting of a survey of the Bear Station Historic District, for which a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) form was prepared, and upon archaeological field investigations within the direct Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed connector ROW.

Based on the background and document study, it appeared that a previously-identified historic district, Bear Station, had the potential for being considered significant, as did possible archaeological remains of nearby and adjacent structures. A Determination of Eligibility (DOE) was conducted, supporting the significance of the extant Bear Station community. Construction of the Eden Square Connector across Old Hamburg Road would not constitute a direct impact to this district. It is noted, however, that although a new traffic corridor might not add significantly to the indirect impact that modern development has already imparted on the district, the opening of the Eden Square Connector would, in fact, bring additional traffic into the area. The result of this additional traffic will be an increase in ambient noise levels immediately adjacent to the district, as well as indirect visual impacts. These impacts can be minimized through the use of landscape buffers between the connector roadway and Old Hamburg Road.

As to more direct impacts, archaeological investigations focused on the in-ground "footprint" of the three alignment alternatives, as the direct (APE). Evidence suggested that the site of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Bear Tavern, which gave its name to the community, falls north of the APE, approximately at the southeast corner of the State Route 7 and U.S. Route 40 intersection. It was considered highly probable, however, that archaeological remains of later historic buildings may have been present within or adjacent to the APE. Based on background research, which identified at least three nineteenth century structures within the general area, the examination of exposed ground surfaces was undertaken; and systematic interval shovel test pitting was conducted throughout the APE. Sixty-three shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated to assure that any evidence of historic or prehistoric cultural resources was not missed. No resources were located as a result of this investigation. It is concluded that no direct impact will occur and that further archaeological concerns will not be necessary.